

**INTERNATIONAL CROP AND WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS**  
**USDA/WAOB Joint Agricultural Weather Facility**

**October 12, 2004**

**EUROPE - Highlight:** Rain Boosts Topsoil Moisture Across France and Northern Europe

- Across **France and northern Europe**, rain boosts topsoil moisture for winter crop germination and establishment.
- Elsewhere in **Europe**, mostly warm, dry weather favors summer crop harvesting and late winter grain and oilseed planting.

**FSU - Highlight:** Weather Conditions Favor Autumn Fieldwork

- Dry weather in **Ukraine** and **southern Russia** helps corn, sunflower, and sugar beet harvesting. Rain is needed for winter wheat emergence and establishment in **southeastern Ukraine** and **southern Russia**.
- In **eastern spring grain areas of Russia**, unseasonably warm, dry weather helps harvest activities in **Siberia**, while light to moderate showers interrupt fieldwork in the **Urals Region**.
- In cotton growing areas of **Central Asia**, dry weather helps harvest activities.

**EASTERN ASIA - Highlight:** Seasonably Dry; Freeze In Northern Manchuria

- Seasonably dry weather prevails throughout most of **China**, benefiting summer crop maturation in **Manchuria** and aiding harvest activities from the **North China Plain** to **southern China**.
- A seasonable freeze in **Heilongjiang** causes some damage to immature corn.
- Typhoon Ma\_on brings heavy rain to rice areas in **central Japan**. Ma\_on was the record eighth typhoon to affect **Japan** this year, surpassing the previous record of six typhoons in 1990.

**SOUTHEAST ASIA - Highlight:** Seasonably Dry In Indochina

- Seasonably dry weather favors rice harvesting in **Indochina**.
- Showers in the **Philippines** slow crop maturation and harvesting.

**SOUTH ASIA - Highlight:** Showers Continue Throughout The South And East

- Showers maintain generally favorable conditions for immature cotton and oilseeds in **southern India**, while seasonably drier weather benefits maturing cotton in **Pakistan and northern India**.
- Locally heavy rain renews local flooding in rice areas of **Bangladesh and eastern India**.

**AUSTRALIA - Highlight:** Mostly Dry Weather Limits Moisture Supplies

- Light showers in **western** and **southeastern Australia** moisten topsoils for reproductive winter grains.
- Dry weather in **northern New South Wales** and **Queensland** aids winter grain maturation, but further reduces irrigation supplies for recently planted summer crops.

**SOUTH AMERICA - Highlight:** Beneficial Rain Overspreads The Region

- In **Argentina**, much needed rain boosts moisture for corn and sunflower planting and brings some relief to immature winter wheat.
- In **Brazil**, showers help to trigger coffee flowering, but more widespread rain is needed elsewhere for coffee development, as well as early soybean planting.

**CANADA - Highlight:** Dry Weather Promotes Prairie Harvests

- Warm, mostly dry weather spurs dry down and harvesting of **Prairie** spring grains and oilseeds.
- In **Ontario and Quebec**, warm, dry weather aids drydown of corn and soybeans.

**MEXICO- Highlight:** Widespread Showers Continue South And East

- In **eastern and southern Mexico**, widespread showers continue to maintain favorable soil moisture for coffee, sugarcane, and immature corn.